

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W
-----161329Z 053802 /43

R 160658Z MAR 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6170
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY COLUMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONGEN HONG KONG

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 3677

PASS DEPT OF LABOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, JA, ILO, ICFTU
SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON JAPANESE LABOR'S RELATIONS WITH ASIAN UNIONS

1. ON MARCH 7 A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON RELATIONS BETWEEN
JAPANESE AND ASIAN LABOR UNIONS TOOK PLACE IN TOKYO,
SPONSORED BY SOHYO'S ASIAN LABOR INSTITUTE TOGETHER WITH
SOHYO-AFFILIATED UNIONS WHICH BELONG TO ICFTU-ARO. SEMINAR
WAS ASIAN LABOR INSTITUTE'S FIRST ARO-RELATED PROGRAM
SINCE INSTITUTE'S FOUNDING TWO YEARS AGO. SPEAKERS
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WERE ARO PRESIDENT DEVAN NAIR AND ARO SECRETARY V. S.
MATHUR.

2. LEADOFF SPEECH BY NAIR WAS FREE-SWINGING CRITICISM
OF BOTH LARGE JAPANESE LABOR FEDERATIONS, SOHYO AND
DOMEI, FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT MEANINGFUL
AID PROGRAMS FOR THEIR FELLOW FREE TRADE UNIONS IN

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA. NAIR SAID: "ONLY IN RECENT PAST HAVE MODEST CONTRIBUTIONS BEEN MADE TO ASIAN SOLIDARITY FUND OF ICFTU-ARO BY DOMEI AND SOHYO. THIS OUGHT TO BE MATTER OF SHAME FOR JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS SINCE THEY PROFESS, AT LEAST IN THEORY, AN ASIAN KINSHIP.. JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS USE THEIR SOLIDARITY FUNDS, NOT TO PROVIDE CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO TRADE UNIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA, BUT IN FINANCING DELEGATIONS FROM THEIR UNIONS TO GO ON "STUDY MISSIONS" TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND SOUTH ASIA. WHAT THESE MISSIONS HAVE "STUDIED," AND WHAT CONCRETE RESULTS HAVE EMERGED FROM SUCH "STUDIES" REMAIN MYSTERIES FOR THE ICFTU-ARO." DESPITE NAIR'S BLUNTNES, PRESIDENT SOHYO SECGEN TOMIZUKA SHOWED NO REACTION TO IT AND IN FACT, AT SEMINAR'S CLOSE, GAVE GRACIOUS LENGTHY SPEECH THANKING NAIR FOR HIS PARTICIPATION.

3. COMMENT: LABOR SOURCES TELL US SOHYO'S MAIN MOTIVE IN HOLDING ARO-CENTERED SEMINAR WAS TO DEFLECT CRITICISM OF ASIAN LABOR INSTITUTE COMING FROM RIVAL FEDERATION, DOMEI. DOMEI VIEW WAS THAT INACTIVE INSTITUTE WAS SUPERFICIAL ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN SOHYO'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE IN NON-COMMUNIST LABOR MOVEMENTS OF ASIA.

4. WE ARE TOLD DOMEI ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE ARO EXECUTIVES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN SEMINAR. NAIR, HOWEVER REPORTEDLY REFUSED, TELLING DOMEI THAT, SINCE SEMINAR BEING SPONSORED NOT ONLY BY INSTITUTE BUT ALSO BY SOHYO

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UNIONS BELONGING TO ICFTU-ARO, IT WOULD BE PROPER FOR HIM TO ATTEND. DOMEI ACCEPTED NAIR'S REASONING BUT ITSELF DECIDED TO BOYCOTT SEMINAR.

BUTTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TOKYO03677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770090-0182
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3090786
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEMINAR ON JAPANESE LABOR'S RELATIONS WITH ASIAN UNIONS
TAGS: ELAB, JA, ILO, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aacd09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009